

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) Gear system to drive an extruder with several axially parallel shafts, rotating in the same direction, arranged around a circle at equal angles with respect to each other, which are attached in a torque-proof manner to conveyor elements, wherewith the conveyor elements of adjacent said axially parallel shafts engage with each other, wherein the driven shafts of the gear system are attached coaxially and in a torque-proof manner to the axially parallel shafts, each said driven shaft has having an axially offset driven pinion, the driven pinions engageengaging respectively with an externally-toothed drive wheel provided on a central drive shaft and with a surrounding internally-toothed hollow gear wheel, axially offset pinions (19, 20) are arranged on adjacent driven shafts (11) andwherein the respective drive wheelswheel of the central drive shaft and the hollow gear wheelswheel are arranged in similarly offset fashion, characterized in thatwherein the hollow gear wheels (24, 25)wheel havehas an external tooth gearing (51), with which an outwardly located drive wheel (26 to 29) on an outwardly-located drive shaft (15 to 18) engages, so that each hollow gear wheel (24, 25) is driven with the same torque and half of the torque of each said driven pinion (19, 20) is generated via the central drive wheel (21, 22) and half via the hollow gear wheel (24, 25).

2. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 1, characterized in that thewherein the outwardly-located drive shaft comprises one of a plurality of short and long outwardly-located drive shafts (15 to 18) havehaving

different lengths as a result of the axially offset driven pinions ~~(19,20)~~ of the adjacent driven shafts ~~(11)~~, and the short outwardly-located drive shafts ~~(16, 18)~~ have a smaller diameter than the long outwardly-located drive shafts ~~(15, 17)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein at least two said outwardly-located drive wheels ~~(26 to 29)~~are arranged at equal angles with respect to each other and engage with the external tooth gearing of the hollow gear wheel ~~(24, 25)~~.

4. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein to drive the central drive shaft ~~(14)~~ and the outwardly-located drive shaft ~~(15 to 18)~~, a coaxial floating bush ~~(40)~~ is provided ~~with~~having an internal tooth gearing ~~(45)~~ and an external tooth gearing ~~(44)~~, wherein the internal tooth gearing ~~(45)~~ engages with an external tooth gearing on the inwardly-located central drive shaft, ~~(14)~~ and wherein the external tooth gearing ~~(44)~~ engages with an internal tooth gearing of a second hollow gear wheel ~~(47)~~, ~~the~~ and external tooth gearing ~~of which engages of the second hollow gear wheel engaging,~~ via an axially offset reversing wheel, ~~(48)~~ with a toothed wheel ~~(49, 50)~~ on the outwardly-located drive shaft ~~(15 to 18)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the external tooth gearing ~~(44)~~ and the internal tooth gearing ~~(45)~~ of the floating bush are formed by skew bevel gearings opposite each other.

6. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the bush ~~(40)~~ is driven via a straight tooth gearing ~~(41)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) Gear system according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it is formed, as the drive for an extruder (1), with~~wherein the axially parallel shafts comprise at least eight said axially-parallel shafts ~~(3)~~ rotating in the same direction.

8. (New) Gear system according to Claim 1, wherein the hollow gear wheel comprises a first hollow gear wheel driven by said outwardly located drive shaft, and wherein the outwardly located drive shaft comprises a first outwardly located drive shaft, the system including a second hollow gear wheel spaced axially from the first hollow gear wheel, the second hollow gear wheel being driven by a second outwardly-located drive shaft.